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AIDE TO U.N. CHIEF CALLED SOVIET SPY IN SENATE REPORT

Intelligence Panel Study Also Calls for Improvements in U.S. Counterespionage

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Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Oct. 7 — The Senate Select Committee on Intelligence charged today that a Soviet intelligence officer holds the post of assistant to the Secretary General at the United Nations.

The committee, in a report calling for broad changes in the Government's security and counterintelligence programs, added new details to the Reagan Administration's charge that the Soviet Union is using the United Nations as a platform for spying.

"The K.G.B. has succeeded in infiltrating its officers into the U.N. bureaucracy, with some reaching positions of authority," the report said. "The K.G.B. has held the position of assistant to the Secretary General since Viktor Lesiovsky held the post under U Thant. The current assistant is a K.G.B. China expert."

Soviet Aide to U.N. Leader

It did not name the assistant. Javier Pérez de Cuéller, the Secretary General, has two special assistants, one of whom is Vladimir Kolesnikov, a Soviet citizen.

The Senate report was based on data gathered by American intelligence agencies that has been declassified for public release.

Last month, the Reagan Administration announced it would expel 25 diplomats attached to the Soviet mission to the United Nations who it said were intelligence operatives. Employees of the United Nations Secretariat are international civil servants and were not included in the expulsion order, which was part of an American effort to reduce the size of the Soviet diplomatic mission.

According to Administration officials, 14 of the 25 have left. The remaining 11 are said to include the head of the K.G.B. in New York City, identified as Valery I. Savchenko, and the head of the G.R.U., the Soviet military intelligence agency, identified as Vladislav B. Skvortsov.

A spokesman for the United Nations,

François Giuliani, said charges of spying are occasionally made against various employees of the organization. But he said no country has ever made a formal complaint. "Unless people wear a sign saying, 'I am a K.G.B. spy,' how do you want us to know?" asked Mr. Giuliani.

The 114-page report by the Senate Committee covers a broad array of counterintelligence and security issues. It praises the Reagan Administration for making improvements after decades of neglect, but says numerous weaknesses remain.

The report offers 95 specific recommendations and says high-level officials must put more emphasis on the problem to overcome longstanding bureaucratic barriers.

Damage From Espionage

It says the damage caused by the series of espionage cases of recent years was "far greater than anyone in the U.S. Government has acknowledged publicly."

The committee called for a reduction in the number of diplomats allowed to serve at the Soviet Union's embassy, consulates and United Nations mission. According to the report, approximately 450 of the Soviet citizens in this country as official representatives are intelligence operatives.

Senator Dave Durenberger, the Minnesota Republican who is chairman of the Intelligence Committee, characterized the committee's findings this way: "Too many secrets, too much access to secrets, too many spies, too little accountability for securing national security secrets, and too little effort given to combatting the very real threat which spies represent to our national security."

The report's recommendations

ranged from changes in the system used for classifying secret documents to improvements in computer security and in the standards used to investigate and reinvestigate Government personnel with access to sensitive information.

The report also said agencies' procedures for keeping track of employees who receive clearances despite problems like drug use are "poor or nonexistent."